

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

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The clients' guide to law firms

DAHUI LAWYERS

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THE FIRM

DaHui Lawyers is redefining the standards of the Chinese legal market as the “next generation” PRC firm, with a particular strength in New Economy industries as well as complex cross-border transactions.

Combining an in-depth knowledge of China’s legal and business landscape with extensive international experience, DaHui has become a “go-to” firm for multinational companies across a broad range of industries and practice areas. DaHui’s high-standard expertise and professionalism have led it to become a key advisor and strategist to clients of all types and sizes in China’s emerging but challenging market, providing clients with the most effective and solution-oriented services tailored to their diversified business needs.

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE

Telecommunications, media and technology: DaHui’s strength in the highly-regulated TMT industry is in providing practical advice containing insightful assessments, while highlighting key regulatory implications, trends and changes. As leading multinational and round-trip PRC investors seek to navigate challenges unique to China’s TMT environment, DaHui guides clients using its consummate regulatory expertise with industry-focused services across a range of TMT sub-sectors, including Internet, IT/telecoms, mobile, publishing, new media, entertainment, sports, events, and exhibitions.

Corporate/M&A: DaHui’s increased capacity has allowed it to not only handle cross-border transactions, but to act as lead counsel – rather than simply PRC advisers – on virtually all of them. As such, the firm has significant experience coordinating legal teams across multiple jurisdictions and spearheading all stages of a transaction, including structuring, DD, negotiations, documentation and closing procedures.

Dispute resolution: DaHui’s dispute resolution team has lawyers qualified in the US, UK and Hong Kong, who have appeared before a range of international arbitration institutions (such as CIETAC, HKIAC, SIAC, LCIA). Domestically, the team’s years of litigation experience has given it a well-developed understanding of PRC judicial procedure and practice, and a strong understanding of Chinese society. The firm’s cross-jurisdictional expertise, as well as its strong network of international allied firms, allows DaHui to use effectively a range of procedural approaches, governmental resources, public security and even criminal measures to formulate and implement comprehensive dispute resolution strategies.

Private equity/venture capital: DaHui’s PE/VC practice covers all stages of an investment, including fund establishment, project investment, capital restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, de-listings, IPOs, and others. The firm has rich practical experience in RMB funds, USD funds, parallel funds, and cross-border investment funds in multiple areas, with clients including PE fund investors of all sizes and all kinds of major participants, such as seed investors, fund promoters, fund managers and advisers.



LANGUAGES

Chinese

English

Energy: DaHui's extensive energy practice has steadily expanded by attracting new clients in traditional sectors, such as oil and gas, and significantly strengthening its renewable energy presence. Given the firm's focus on 'new economy' industries, renewable energy was a logical area of expansion, with its renewable energy practice now reaching a range of sectors, including wind, solar, hydroelectricity and bioenergy.

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Antitrust and competition
- Banking and finance
- Capital markets
- Corporate and M&A
- Dispute resolution
- FinTech
- Healthcare and life sciences
- Intellectual property
- Labor and employment
- Private equity/venture capital
- Projects and energy
- Real estate and construction
- Regulatory/compliance
- TMT
- WTO/international trade

MEMBERSHIPS

MSI Global Alliance

DATA PROTECTION: PRC FIRMS

TIER 2

Recognised as a go-to firm for clients in the TMT sector, **DaHui Lawyers** leverages its broader compliance experience to provide advice on personal privacy and cross-border data transfer requirements. Within the team, founding partner Richard Ma heads the practice with experience advising on regulatory and data compliance matters primarily; Joanna Jiang advises on data compliance requirements; and associate Dimitri Phillips is active in dispute resolution, compliance and corporate matters.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION: ARBITRATION: PRC FIRMS

TIER 2

“**DaHui Lawyers** offers a strong international arbitration practice, often acting as lead or sole counsel in international arbitrations. It advises on a wide variety of matters, including finance, construction, and cutting-edge technologies, and has expertise handling disputes in the CIETAC, HKIAC, BAC, and SIAC. Practice head Arthur Ma has a strong reputation in this field, specialising in foreign-related domestic and cross-border dispute resolution, with extensive expertise advising both foreign and domestic clients across a wide range of industries. Also notable is Xing Wan, who specialises in IP, real estate and construction, employment, and anti-competition disputes. Edward Lu’s practice focuses on commercial disputes, including on cross-border investments, joint ventures, and M&A matters.”

DISPUTE RESOLUTION: LITIGATION: PRC FIRMS TIER 2

The litigation department at **DaHui Lawyers** acts for a number of household name clients in complex and significant disputes. It is active in the Chinese market, though it is particularly adept at handling disputes with a cross-border element, including advising international companies on defending their rights in China. It also has experience appearing before the Supreme People's Court. The team is co-led by Xing Wan and Owen Yang, both of whom have significant experience acting in commercial litigation cases, as well as Arthur Ma, who focuses on foreign-related domestic and cross-border dispute resolution. Joy Wang specialises in IP disputes, whilst Edward Lu is experienced in a full range of commercial disputes, which includes real estate, construction, and energy matters.

Leading individuals

Arthur Ma

Next Generation Partners

Joy Wang

FINTECH: PRC FIRMS

TIER 2

Leveraging its exposure to major PRC regulators, **DaHui Lawyers** advises a broad range of clients on navigating payment license regimes and structuring payment solutions. Managing partner Richard Ma who is active in market entry and restructuring, leads the practice alongside Beijing-based Brendon Wu who focuses on advising PE and VC funds on various investments in the region. Complementing the firm's private equity practice is Zheng Zha, noted for his work on cross-border investments, while Cloud Li is a key contact for fund formation. The team saw the hire of Greg Guo from Fangda Partners in April 2022; Guo focuses on capital markets, M&A and private equity mandates.

Next Generation Partners

Cloud Li

INVESTMENT FUNDS: PRC FIRMS

TIER 2

“**DaHui Lawyers** has a burgeoning investment funds practice representing a number of dynamic clients. Cloud Li leads the China practice from Shanghai, while Zheng Zha operates in both Beijing and New York, serving large US funds investing in China. The firm provides services in the establishment, investment, maintenance, restructuring and dissolution of funds and also in dispute resolution following the dissolving of a fund. The team helps fund founders, institutional and high-net-worth individual investors with the establishment of RMB funds, USD funds, parallel funds, close-end funds, feeder funds and cross-border funds.”

TMT: PRC FIRMS

TIER 2

“**DaHui Lawyers** advises clients across the full span of the TMT regulatory environment in China. It has a strong practice in the technology and telecoms sectors, though it also has a preeminent media and entertainment offering, assisting domestic companies in onshore ventures and global companies in cross-border media projects. Richard Ma leads the practice, with extensive experience acting on a wide range of transactions for large MNCs and leading TMT companies. Cloud Li is experienced in M&A, corporate and employment related TMT projects, whilst Joanna Jiang focuses on the IT and telecoms, media, entertainment, and healthcare industries. Dimitri Phillips is experienced in advising foreign companies on their business in China, as well as Chinese companies seeking to go abroad.”

Rising Stars

Dimitri Phillips

Next Generation Partners

Cloud Li

ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

DaHui Lawyers has close links with China's regulatory authorities and consequently has a very knowledgeable and well-apprised enforcement-related practice, led by Jie Tong. Tong's clients span a broad range of industry sectors, including TMT, healthcare, automotive, chemicals, real estate, sovereign funds, private equity, food & beverage, retail, logistics, energy, finance and traditional manufacturing. Recent instructions also include merger control and antitrust monitoring.

Leading individuals

Jie Tong

CORPORATE AND M&A: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

“**DaHui Lawyers** stands out for its work advising multinational corporations on entering and expanding their operations in the Chinese market, including handling joint ventures, acquisitions, corporate structuring and commercial agreements. The practice’s work in this space draws on its ability to provide regulatory advice across data protection, foreign investment, employment and sanctions. In addition to its work for foreign enterprises, the team is regularly engaged by prominent Chinese companies to advise on corporate and commercial matters. While technology is a particular area of focus for the practice, its client base extends to cover the media and entertainment, life sciences and transportation sectors. Richard Ma heads up the team and is widely recognised for his experience in the TMT sector. In addition to Ma, key figures in the team include Julia Dai, Gary Li and Cloud Li.”

Next Generation Partners

Cloud Li

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

Providing advice to a varied pool of clients ranging from Huawei to Princeton University Press, **DaHui Lawyers** has an accomplished labour and employment practice. Experienced litigator Xing Wan heads the team, frequently representing international clients in their disputes with high-level employees and advising on terminations, non-competition clauses and trade secrets issues. Joon Ho Tan is a crisis management specialist advising on strikes and work stoppages, whistleblowing and instances of serious non-compliance with company protocols.

PRIVATE EQUITY: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

“ With a growing private equity practice in recent years, **DaHui Lawyers** now acts for both domestic and foreign investors of all sizes. It acts on a full scope of private equity and fund operations, from establishment and investment to capital restructurings. Practice head Brendon Wu has a particular specialism in the TMT and education industries. Richard Ma has a strong reputation acting on corporate and financing matters for cutting-edge companies and traditional enterprises, whilst Zheng Zha has additional expertise in equity financing of private companies. ”

PROJECTS AND ENERGY: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

“**DaHui Lawyers** is a growing projects and energy practice led by Richard Ma. The firm covers a range of services for its clients including fund formation and arbitration. Serving the ‘new economy’ is part of the team’s philosophy; it acts for zero emissions innovators Ideanomics, while Tesla is another notable client. Jie Tong and Owen Yang are some of the key names to note in this practice.”

REGULATORY/COMPLIANCE: PRC FIRMS

TIER 3

“**DaHui Lawyers** advises on a variety of cross-border and domestic regulatory matters, with particular strength acting for clients in the TMT and fintech sectors. Additionally, the practice is also experienced in a wide range of operational matters, including structuring and licensing, as well as the construction of compliance frameworks. Richard Ma is the key name to note, advising leading domestic and multinational companies. The team is supported by Cloud Li, who is experienced in advising European and North American MNCs on employment and compliance matters, and Joanna Jiang, who has significant experience in data compliance cases.”

Leading individuals

Richard Ma

CAPITAL MARKETS: PRC FIRMS

TIER 4

“**DaHui Lawyers** acts for issuers and underwriters in both debt and offerings matters, particularly in mainland China, the US and Hong Kong. In the last year, the practice has handled a range of matters, including SPAC deals, pre-IPO private placements and share transfers, and it has also seen continued growth with a number of new key partner hires. Zheng Zha leads the practice, with expertise in international capital markets and cross-border investments.”

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: PRC FIRMS

TIER 4

“ In addition to assisting **DaHui Lawyers**’ corporate and dispute resolution clients with IP issues, the firm’s standalone IP practice is active in matters concerning media, entertainment, TMT, pharmaceuticals and life sciences. The extensive experience of team leader Joy Wang includes disputes over patents, copyrights, trade marks, and unfair competition claims. ”

RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY: PRC FIRMS

TIER 4

“**DaHui Lawyers** is particularly active in the financial services, telecoms and tech sectors, where it assists multinational companies in reorganising their operations in China. Noted for its considerable experience in advising on cross-border insolvency cases, the group particularly excels in acting for foreign clients in contentious and non-contentious dissolutions and liquidations. Managing partner Richard Ma is the main contact.”

REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION: PRC FIRMS

Firms to watch

“**DaHui Lawyers’** real estate team provide representation before China’s highest courts and represents Chinese companies on real estate disputes overseas.”

TAX: PRC FIRMS

Firms to watch

“**DaHui Lawyers** is building a tax practice around former Ernst & Young Law lawyer Mei Zhang. Zhang draws on her knowledge and experience of both US and PRC tax law to assist the firm’s clients.”